

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 02586 01 OF 02 101855Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101930Z 128129 /41

R 101837Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5539
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02586

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, NATO, BE, US, GW
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EUCOM MOVE TO BELGIUM

REF: BONN 00059 JAN 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 8, REPRESENTATIVES FROM
EMBASSIES BONN AND BRUSSELS AND USMISSION NATO, ALONG
WITH THE DEPUTY POLAD SHAPE, VISITED STUTTGART TO
ATTEND A USEUCOM-INITIATED CONFERENCE ON THE POSSIBLE
COLOCATION OF USEUCOM WITH SHAPE. REPRESENTATIVES FROM
EMBASSIES EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROJECTED MOVE FROM
STUTTGART TO BELGIUM DID NOT HAVE USG APPROVAL AND
DESCRIBED SOME OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS THE
BELGIAN AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE OVER-
COME SHOULD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EVER DECIDE TO PROCEED
WITH THE PLAN. WORKING LEVEL EUCOM OFFICIALS SEEM TO
BE SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THE COMPLEXITY OF THE
PROBLEM AND OBVIOUSLY BENEFITED FROM THE INFORMAL
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 02586 01 OF 02 101855Z

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE
DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY BONN'S REPRESENTATIVES MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THERE IS NO FINAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION;

B. THE CONCEPT WAS APPROVED BY FORMER SECDEF RUMSFELD BUT NOT BY THIS ADMINISTRATION;

C. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO TALK ABOUT THE PROPOSAL; AND

D. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE NO APPROACH OF ANY KIND TO ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

2. EUCOM ATTENDEES AT THE MEETING NUMBERED SOME ELEVEN INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM WERE ENGINEERS AND WHO LOOKED AT THE SUBJECT AS IF IT WERE LARGELY AN ENGINEERING RATHER THAN A POLITICAL PROBLEM. THOSE ATTENDING WERE GIVEN A WORKING PAPER ENTITLED "STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES RELATING TO THE COLOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS USEUCOM WITH SHAPE" (COPY BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CE, GEORGE HUMPHREY). THIS PAPER, WHICH IS CAST IN MILITARY JARGON, WOULD BE OF LITTLE HELP IN CONVINCING ANY CIVILIAN OFFICIAL, WHETHER U.S. OR FOREIGN, THAT THE PROJECTED MOVE WAS MUCH MORE THAN AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE FOR USEUCOM.

3. THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EMBASSIES AND THE MISSION, SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY, POINTED OUT THAT ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN THIS FORM WERE UNLIKELY TO CONVINCE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE PAPER BE RECAST TO DESCRIBE THE STRATEGIC
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 02586 01 OF 02 101855Z

ADVANTAGES TO THE COMMON DEFENSE RESULTING FROM SUCH A MOVE. THESE REPS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE DISADVANTAGES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED. NOTABLE AMONG THESE WAS THE ALLEGED "AMERICANIZATION OF SHAPE" THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM SUCH A EUCOM MOVE.

4. THE EUCOM ORAL PRESENTATIONS DEALT LARGELY WITH THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL COORDINATION PROBLEMS WHICH EUCOM FORESEES. THE MAJOR CONSTRAINT IN THIS AREA STEMS FROM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLOCATION AND "PROJECT 85." PROJECT 85 IS A SHAPE (NOT A U.S.) PROJECT TO BUILD AN UNDERGROUND COMMAND CENTER. USEUCOM DESIRES TO BUILD AN EXTENSION TO THIS COMMAND CENTER FOR USEUCOM USE. SUCH AN EXTENSION, BUILT AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SHAPE COMMAND CENTER, WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER, AND PRESUMABLY MORE EFFICIENT, THAN WOULD A SEPARATE U.S. UNDERGROUND FACILITY. THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 02586 02 OF 02 101907Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 101837Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5540
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02586

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SHAPE PROJECT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN 1980,
WILL GO AHEAD REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE U.S. DOES ABOUT
COLOCATION. USEUCOM IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT DELAY
IN ADDRESSING THE COLOCATION ISSUE WOULD CAUSE THE
LOSS OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALREADY-
SCHEDULED SHAPE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

5. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE DESIRABILITY OF
JOINING THE USEUCOM UNDERGROUND CENTER TO THE SHAPE
UNDERGROUND COMMAND CENTER, USEUCOM REPRESENTATIVES
GAVE VARIOUS DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSED COLOCATION WITH
SHAPE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, SOME 943 AMERICANS ARE
EXPECTED TO MOVE TO SHAPE, ALONG WITH APPROXIMATELY
2,700 DEPENDENTS. FOUR HUNDRED FIFTEEN EXISTING
AMERICAN POSITIONS WOULD REMAIN IN STUTTGART. OVERALL
THERE WOULD BE A SLIGHT DECREASE IN TOTAL EUCOM NUMBERS.
IN PEACETIME, 250 OF THESE 943 AMERICANS WOULD WORK IN
THE EUCOM COMMAND CENTER. IN TIME OF WAR OR HIGH
TENSION, TWO SHIFTS OF 250 MEN EACH WOULD WORK IN THE
COMMAND CENTER FOR A TOTAL OF 500. SOME 202 LOCAL
EMPLOYEES WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED AT MONS. THE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 02586 02 OF 02 101907Z

TOTAL COST OF THE PROPOSED MOVE IS EXPECTED TO AMOUNT TO \$92.5 MILLION, OF WHICH \$13.5 MILLION IS FOR HOUSING.

6. IN THE DISCUSSION PERIOD, EUCOM REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT THEY HAD ASSUMED THAT APPROVAL RECEIVED FROM THE FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAS VALID UNLESS OR UNTIL CHANGED BY HIS SUCCESSOR. HOWEVER, THEY DID NOT ARGUE THE POINT THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD WANT TO LOOK AT THE DECISION AGAIN.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THE APPROVAL BY THE PREVIOUS SECDEF HAD BEEN GIVEN SUBJECT TO THREE FURTHER REVIEWS: A) A REVIEW OF MISSIONS AND FUNCTIONS; B) AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT; AND C) A POLITICAL ASSESSMENT. ONE OF THEIR PURPOSES IN CALLING THE MEETING WAS TO HELP THEM PREPARE SUCH A POLITICAL ASSESSMENT.

7. IN ADDITION TO MAKING THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA. 1 ABOVE, EMBASSY BONN'S REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE INFORMALLY ABOUT SOME OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO BE ENCOUNTERED VIS-A-VIS THE FRG; IN SO DOING HE DREW EXTENSIVELY ON REFTEL. MOST OF THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION WAS, HOWEVER, QUITE RIGHTLY DEVOTED TO THE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FORESEEN BY EMBASSY BRUSSELS. THESE, WE UNDERSTAND, ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY BY THAT EMBASSY.

8. IN CLOSING THE DISCUSSION, EMBASSY BONN'S REPRESENTATIVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REMARKS OF THE EMBASSY AND USMISSION REPRESENTATIVES WERE PURELY PERSONAL SINCE THERE WAS NO U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE MATTER. THAT DID NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE ROADBLOCKS IN EUCOM'S WAY. WHEN AND IF THERE WERE A U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION SUPPORTING THE MOVE, EUCOM COULD COUNT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 02586 02 OF 02 101907Z

ON THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND ACHIEVE THE GOAL.
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